
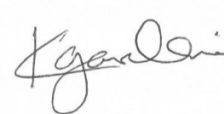


## London Borough of Waltham Forest

Report Title	Schools Capital Programme 2025 – 2029
Meeting / Date	Cabinet, 2 <sup>nd</sup> December 2025
Cabinet portfolio	Councillor Ahsan Khan, Deputy Leader (Housing and Regeneration) 
	Councillor Kizzy Gardiner, Portfolio Lead Member, Children and Young People 
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Wards affected	All
Public access	Open except for Appendices 2 and 3 which are exempt in accordance with Section 100(A-H) of the Local Government Act 1972 and Schedule 12A as amended, on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1, paragraph 3, they contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding the information) and disclosure would not be in the public interest.
Appendices	Appendix 1 – Resources Summary Appendix 2 – Schools Capital Programme 2025-2029 - Committed Projects (Exempt) Appendix 3 – Schools Capital Programme 2025-2029 - Proposed Projects (Exempt) Appendix 4 – Equalities Impact Assessment Screening Appendix 5 – Sustainability Matrix
1. Summary	
1.1	This report sets out the Schools Capital Programme for the financial years 2025-2029. Investment will support the Council's statutory duties to provide enough pupil places, support school improvement and maintain community school buildings. By providing high quality school places within local communities, investment supports the Council's

Mission Waltham Forest priority; Ensure every family and every child are given every opportunity.

- 1.2 The Schools' Capital Programme is supported by capital allocations from the Department for Education (DfE). These are supplemented by third-party developer contributions, including Section 106 and the Community Infrastructure Levy. The programme is not funded from the Council's general fund.

## 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Cabinet is recommended to:

- 2.2 Approve the allocation of the available resources of £49.64m to the Schools Capital Programme to financial year end 2028/29, as outlined in Appendix 1, and for this funding to be made available to deliver the projects identified in Appendix 2 and Appendix 3.

- 2.3 Note the total resource of £24.74m currently committed against projects previously approved by Cabinet and by delegated authority, as detailed in Appendix 2.

- 2.4 Note the School's estate rationalisation workstream, repurposing existing surplus provision to meet the needs of children and young people with SEND in borough to reduce pressure on the Designated Schools Grant and the General Fund, including reduction of home-school transport.

- 2.5 Delegate authority to finalise this programme, within identified financial resources, to the Strategic Director of Children Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Lead Member for Housing and Regeneration, the Portfolio Lead Member for Children and Young People, the Strategic Director of Place and the Strategic Director of Resources.

- 2.6 Delegate authority to the Strategic Director of Place, in consultation with the Portfolio Lead Member for Housing and Regeneration, Portfolio Lead Member for Children and Young People and Strategic Director of Resources:

- to proceed with the procurement of projects and maintenance and improvement works included in the programme, subject to Strategic Commissioning Board Approval
- to award contracts provided they are within the resources available in the Schools Capital Programme to meet such commitments.

## 3. Proposals

### Background

- 3.1 The Schools Capital Programme provides infrastructure investment in the school estate to meet the Council's statutory duty for the provision of pupil places, to support implementation of key Education strategies

and to maintain community school premises. By providing high quality school places within local communities, the investment will support the realisation of the Council's Mission Waltham Forest priority; Ensure every family and every child are given every opportunity.

- 3.2 The following criteria has been used to determine the programme, based on the need for school places and the condition of the existing school estate:
- Provision of identified additional primary and secondary places between 2025 and 2029.
  - Provision of high-quality places for pupils with special educational needs and disability (SEND), and pupils at risk of exclusion.
  - Maintenance, improvement, and compliance work to community school buildings, including consideration of priorities regarding climate change.
- 3.3 Officers continuously and regularly monitor progress of the Schools Capital Programme against confirmed growth and predicted future demand. This report informs Cabinet of:
- Additional funding received since the programme last reported to Cabinet in December 2024 and forecast to be received for the period to March 2029
  - The forecast out-turn costs for current projects
  - An update on school place needs and priorities, identified by the Children's Services Directorate, in line with the growth aspirations of the borough and Local Plan.
- 3.4 Capital investment has been, and continues to be, needed to ensure that there is capacity within our schools to meet school place demands. Since 2007, the Council expanded Waltham Forest primary phase schools by 37 permanent forms of entry (FE), with an additional 74 temporary classes being incorporated. This was to support the significant increase in pupil numbers arising from peaks in birth rates and net migration. The peak reception intake year was in 2016/17.
- 3.5 As schools are funded by the number of children they have on roll, proactive management of surplus school places is critical to protect the financial sustainability of our schools. The Waltham Forest Pupil Place Plan 2024–30 was published in October 2024 and continues to aim to hold surplus place capacity across mainstream schools at 5-10% to support financial stability whilst also protecting parental preference.
- 3.6 Since the peak of reception demand in 2016/17, demand in the Leyton/Leytonstone and Walthamstow areas – which had the majority of expansion works – has fallen and the Pupil Place Planning team has worked with individual primary schools to reduce their place offer in these areas accordingly. 12.5FE has already been reduced since 2020 and a further reduction of 2FE is being implemented across these areas over the next few years.

- 3.7 There has been limited primary growth in the north of the borough, with bulge classes implemented at Yardley Primary School, including associated works. It is anticipated the school will formally expand from September 2026. Design proposals have been agreed, and a planning application has been submitted.
- 3.8 The secondary phase expansion programme consisting of Willowfield School 1FE expansion project and Kelmscott 2FE expansion project phase 3 works are due to finish by the end of 2025.
- 3.9 In 2025, 84% of Reception and Year 7 pupils received their 1<sup>st</sup> preference school and 96% obtained one of the top 3 preferences. In both primary and secondary Waltham Forest exceeded the London average for parental preference.

#### Schools Capital Programme Delivery in 2024/25

- 3.10 In December 2024, Cabinet approved the Schools Capital Programme of £52.65m, to be allocated to projects planned for delivery until the financial year 2026/27. £12.04m of this sum was spent in the financial year 2024-25 on current projects, and additional resources of £9.02m were received. The net result is that the total available to spend to 2028/29 is £49.64m, of which £24.74m is already allocated to Cabinet approved projects (See Appendices 1 and 2). The balance of £24.90m will be allocated to meet future needs.
- 3.11 Key successes delivered since the Programme was last reported to Cabinet, include:
- Completion of bulge class works to Yardley Primary School, extending and remodelling existing accommodation to facilitate bulge classes pending formal expansion.
  - Completion of all works at Willowfield School to facilitate 1FE expansion. Works this year have included an extension to the existing activity studio and landscaping works.
  - Occupation of the North Birkbeck Road High Needs and Family Resilience Centres. The Youth Offending Service moved into new facilities during spring 2025 and Burnside School have taken occupation of the High Needs Centre during summer 2025.
  - Commencement of the rolling programme of school capital improvement works for 2025/26 aligned to a new allocation of condition funding, with works including window replacements, roof renewals, heating renewals, toilet refurbishment, emergency lighting, lightning protection and other improvements. Projects are underway or have completed over the summer holiday period.

#### Previously Approved Projects

- 3.12 The £24.74m committed against projects already in the Schools Capital Programme includes allowances for approved projects but that are yet to be completed. Delivery of projects underway, which will complete over the next four years, include:

- Continuation of proposals to facilitate school expansion at Yardley Primary School by 1FE. The school successfully took a third bulge class in September 2025, and a planning application has been submitted for the main expansion project, which will be considered by Planning Committee during winter 2025.
- Delivery of projects at community schools identified in the Schools Capital Repairs Programme 2025/26.
- Full completion of the Kelmscott School 2FE expansion project, to remodel and appropriately suite accommodation within the main school.
- Commencement of a rationalisation project at Chapel End Infant School, to bring the Early Years facilities onto the Infant School site.
- Rationalisation strategy work to ascertain opportunities within the existing schools' estate and joining up with anticipated sufficiency needs around SEND, Alternative Provision and Early Years' places.

#### Capital Programme 2025-29

- 3.13 There are plans in place to meet forecast demand between now and September 2029. Before Waltham Forest looks to permanently increase a school's Planned Admission Number (PAN), the school must take two bulge classes which subsequently fill. The strategy is designed to avoid the risk of over expanding the school estate and placing additional revenue pressure upon expanding schools whilst also delivering on parental preference by expanding 1<sup>st</sup> preference schools. This strategy is aligned with the revenue protection strategy for schools adopted by Schools Forum.

#### *Primary Schools*

- 3.14 Predicted demand in the south and centre of the borough continues to be monitored and management of the PAN continues, ensuring there are sufficient school places available where demand requires the places.
- 3.15 The PAN reduction programme continues to be implemented. To date 12.5 forms of entry have been reduced across the primary estate along with a cap on 48-year groups. A further net reduction in these areas of the borough is being implemented over the next few academic years.
- 3.16 The surplus held in the borough is not evenly spread across the different wards / planning areas. The south of Leyton and the south-west of Walthamstow are the areas where there are the highest levels of surplus places, and we are working with schools in these areas to help reduce the surplus through amending their PANs in the annual determined admissions arrangements. The area with the lowest surplus is in North Chingford where 1 Form of Entry is being added to ensure sufficient places.

- 3.17 The forecast increase in demand for places in the north of the borough has been closely monitored over the last few years. The first bulge reception class was provided at Yardley Primary School in September 2023 with the second bulge class added in September 2024. Design and planning works for a permanent 1FE expansion are underway and funds for this scheme had previously been identified and allocated within the capital programme.

#### *Secondary Schools*

- 3.18 The secondary school expansion programme is nearing completion. Phase 3 of the 2FE expansion works at Kelmscott School are due for completion by the end of 2025. 1FE expansion works at Willowfield School have practically complete, with some small external works remaining and are due for full completion by the end of 2025.
- 3.19 Funding has been allocated in the programme to meet short or medium term future demand through temporary expansions (bulge classes) across the existing school estate if required (as listed in the Appendices).
- 3.20 Funding any further expansion works beyond this programme will be dependent on further need materialising and receiving associated basic need allocations from the DfE.

#### *Alternative Provision, Special Educational Needs and Disability*

##### *Out-of-Borough Placement Growth and Forecast*

- 3.21 The number of children and young people with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) placed in out-of-borough settings has grown significantly over the past five years due to local capacity limitations. In January 2025, 12% of Waltham Forest's EHCP cohort were placed in out-of-borough provision, including maintained special schools, independent non-maintained special schools (INMSS), and mainstream settings.
- 3.22 Between 2020 and 2025, placements in INMSS alone increased from 29 to 73, with projected growth reaching 182 by 2030 if no mitigations are implemented. Similarly, placements in other local authority special schools rose from 30 to 80 in the same period, with forecasts suggesting this could rise to 214 by 2030. The number of Waltham Forest pupils in out-of-borough mainstream schools is also expected to increase from 129 in 2025 to 252 by 2030.
- 3.23 This growth trajectory places increasing financial pressure on the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), with INMSS placements costing an average of £69,000 per pupil, excluding transport. The SEND Sufficiency Plan outlines the need to develop future additional in-borough specialist provision to reduce reliance on external placements and mitigate escalating costs.
- 3.24 Increased demand continues for high quality SEND places and Alternative Provision to meet the range of needs in this vulnerable cohort. Funding committed within the Capital Programme will support

the SEND sufficiency place plan 2026 – 29, ensuring that provision is appropriately resourced and located to meet the needs of children.

- 3.25 In line with the SEND Sufficiency Plan 2025–2030, the Council will strengthen its commissioning arrangements for specialist education provision to ensure sufficiency, quality, and value for money. This includes the development and implementation of robust Service Level Agreements (SLAs) with providers, clearly outlining expectations around outcomes, safeguarding, and inclusive practice. In addition:
- The Schools Capital Programme will support the creation of additional in-borough specialist places, reducing reliance on high-cost out-of-borough placements and mitigating pressures on the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). Placement monitoring systems will be enhanced to track progress, attendance, and outcomes for children and young people with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs), ensuring that commissioned provision delivers against agreed objectives.
  - This approach will enable the Council to respond to the projected 78% growth in EHCPs by 2030, as outlined in the SEND Sufficiency Plan, and ensure that children and young people receive the right support, in the right place, at the right time.
- 3.26 The SEND team are currently working with the Isos partnership to review sufficiency and delivery of Alternative Provision places which will further align with the Schools' Capital Programme as required. It is anticipated that the implications of this review will be communicated as part of a future report to Cabinet.
- 3.27 Reasonable adjustment works continue to support inclusion across the schools' estate. Funding is also allocated within the Capital Programme to ensure that all mainstream schools support the full inclusion of students. Works were recently undertaken at Chingford CofE Primary School to provide accessible hygiene facilities.

#### *Strategic Education Projects and School Rebuilding Programme*

- 3.28 Funding has been identified within existing resources to help the Council prioritise approach against the existing estate baseline with an emphasis on decarbonisation and energy efficiency measures, including a fabric first approach. Consideration will continue regarding climate change initiatives in line with local and national guidance and context, including the DfE's Sustainability & Climate Change strategy. The Schools Delivery Team continues to pursue opportunities linked to decarbonising the schools' estate and to mitigate the impact of climate change, including flood reduction works and considers bidding round opportunities linked to known priorities where identified. Recent condition surveys have been undertaken in consideration of opportunities to decarbonise the school's estate through enhanced specification, subject to funding availability.
- 3.29 Burnside Secondary PRU School is part of Phase 2 of the DfE's School Rebuilding Programme. Planning permission for the scheme was secured during April 2024 and works have commenced on site.

The Council has supported the project by formally allocating the adjacent Burwood building to Burnside's site area. This will aid project delivery during construction and benefit the school with enhanced external area. A budget has been allocated within the capital programme for project enhancement, including new furniture and ICT. Officers continue to monitor and support the scheme as required.

- 3.30 There are also projects within the School Rebuilding Programme at Highams Park School, Chingford Foundation School and Eden Girls' School. The Highams Park project has commenced on site, with temporary accommodation now in use by the school. Design works at Chingford Foundation School and Eden Girls' School continues at a pre-planning application stage. The Council doesn't have direct involvement in these projects due to these schools being academies, but there are programme commitments on the Council regarding planning liabilities associated to Section 106 or Section 278 works. Funding has been built into the capital programme to cover potential sums, which are not all known at this stage.

#### Medium and Long Term Demand, Estate Review

- 3.31 Officers are working interdepartmentally to identify the areas of housing growth, and these are monitored and incorporated in school place projections. Some housing growth (schemes at pre-application and later stages) has been factored into the submission to central government statutory returns and known development locations are considered as part of pupil place planning.
- 3.32 There has been a significant reduction in roll within primary schools over the last few years, which has affected schools' financial sustainability. This position is exacerbated by running and maintenance costs associated to premises that may not be in full or optimal use by schools. A review of the maintained primary school estate has been commissioned, to better understand where opportunities can be aligned with other strategic priorities, including emerging needs from SEND & Alternative Provision, Early Years sufficiency and in consideration of the Voluntary and Community Sector. Initial work and associated recommendations will be reported to the Schools' Capital Board during spring 2026 and proposals brought to the Portfolio Lead Member for Children and Young People and Cabinet as required.

#### Development and Delivery of the Schools Capital Programme

- 3.33 The Schools' Capital Programme is driven by strategic education need. The Pupil Place Planning team monitor demand by using data from the Greater London Authority, adjacent boroughs, local housing projections, and birth data to develop and monitor projected need. This will be reported to the Waltham Forest Education Board, to the Children's Services Portfolio Lead Member and integrates with the wider corporate Capital Strategy.
- 3.34 Decisions to expand schools are based on a range of criteria, including educational outcomes, leadership and governing body support,



delivery, cost and risk. Information to inform the strategy is derived from commissioned feasibility studies to determine where future demand can be most economically met. The Schools Delivery team appoint and manage consultants to deliver these studies.

- 3.35 For schools that are suitable and agreeable to expansion, consultation and engagement is undertaken to consider the implications of the expansion to ensure that high quality and effective education provision is not compromised by any development. Officers ensure effective communication from the start of the project to identify and mitigate risks.
- 3.36 Delivery of the programme is led by the Corporate Director of Capital Strategy, Delivery & Estates and Strategic Director of Children Services, in consultation with the Strategic Director of Resources, and Portfolio Lead Member for Children and Young People.

#### 4. Options & Alternatives Considered

- 4.1 It is a statutory obligation for the Council to ensure that enough school places of the appropriate type are available within the borough. Schools are selected for inclusion in programmes of work where delivery of a project is more likely to be achievable economically and with fewer risks combined with determined best educational outcomes. This report relates to confirmed need and known demands up until 2029. It is possible that demand after this period will require new provision and proposals will be developed should this need materialise.
- 4.2 The available financial resources of £49.64m identified in Appendix 1, are proposed to be prioritised on projects to meet the growing demand for SEND/Alternative Provision facilities, potential future mainstream place need and to continue a planned maintenance programme for financial years 2026/27 until 2028/29 as School Condition Allocation Funding for these years has not yet been confirmed by the DfE.
- 4.3 Should the Council fail to invest in creating mainstream places, SEND/Alternative Provision accommodation, or to develop its planned maintenance programme across the school estate, it risks not meeting its statutory duty to provide enough safe and suitable school places for all of its young residents and incurring increasing costs through placing children out of borough in order to meet demands.

#### 5. Council Strategic Priorities (and other National or Local Policies or Strategies)

- 5.1 Capital investment will play a key part in delivering the Council's priorities and reducing overspend in the Dedicated Schools Grant. The Schools Capital Programme will make a significant contribution to connecting people with jobs, safe and healthy lives and to provide confidence in our future. Providing additional pupil places and facilities will contribute to delivering the Council's priorities in line with the Mission Waltham Forest objective:

- Ensure every family and every child are given every opportunity.
- 5.2 Capital works supports schools and the borough to provide a good education for every child; to support young people to be resilient, confident and healthy, and to give them opportunities to flourish.
6. Consultation
- 6.1 In determining the strategy to meet the increased demand for places, the School Organisation and Admissions Board (now incorporated within the Education Strategic Partnership Board) were consulted. These responses are included in the pupil place planning methodology. For expansion of maintained schools, a statutory consultation process is undertaken where there is an increase of more than 10% of the existing roll, in line with DfE Prescribed Alterations statutory guidance.
- 6.2 The SEND strategy was co-produced with residents and was subject to public consultation. The strategy contains the Local SEND Area Partnership's ambitions to meet children's SEND needs in borough.
- 6.3 Individual projects are subject to planning consultation where significant building work is to be undertaken.
7. Implications
- 7.1 Finance, Value for Money and Risk
- 7.1.1 The committed and proposed programme will be financed from capital resources carried forward from those approved in the December 2024 Cabinet report of £52.61m. After adjustments for expenditure incurred in 2024/25 (£12.04m) and additional resources received in the last year, the total financial resources for the Schools' Capital programme are £49.64m of which £24.74m (see Appendix 2) is committed against existing projects leaving £24.90m unallocated to utilise against future projects (see Appendix 1).
- 7.1.2 Appendix 3 outlines proposed future schemes which could be set against the unallocated resources. These will be further developed and reported on separately during the next financial year.
- 7.1.3 Further Basic Need funding and High Needs Provision Capital allocations were announced in March 2025. Waltham Forest received a total allocation of £2,258,583 Basic Need funding for 2026/27 and 2027/28 and £3,016,012 High Needs Provision Capital for 2025/26.
- 7.1.4 Procurement of proposed schemes will be subject to approval by the Council's Strategic Commissioning Board where contracts are anticipated to exceed a value of £1m. Construction frameworks will be utilised where they represent value for money and can meet the need of project requirements.
- 7.1.5 Inflation has impacted the construction industry over the last few years, affecting project viability due to associated costs. To mitigate this, allowances have been made for inflation at a project level, and a

revised financial forecast will be prepared at each project gateway, which align to RIBA stages. Programme contingency has been set at 10% of the overall programme due to increased cost risk.

- 7.1.6 The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) High Needs Block continues to face significant financial pressure due to the rising number of children and young people requiring specialist placements. Between 2020 and 2025, the number of EHCPs in Waltham Forest increased by 80%, with projections indicating a further 78% rise by 2030. This growth has outpaced the development of in-borough specialist provision, resulting in increased reliance on costly out-of-borough placements, including independent non-maintained special schools (INMSS), which average £69,000 per pupil annually, excluding transport. In 2024/25, the DSG High Needs spend reached £63.3m, with a deficit of £4.8m. SEND transport costs alone rose to £5.247m, an increase of £118k from the previous year. Without sufficient local provision, these costs are forecast to escalate further, placing unsustainable pressure on the DSG.
- 7.1.7 The Schools' Capital Programme is a key strategic lever to mitigate these pressures. By investing in new and repurposed in-borough specialist provision, including satellite special schools and specialist resourced provisions (SRPs), the Council aims to reduce reliance on external placements, improve outcomes for children and young people, and deliver better value for money. Developments are aligned with the SEND Sufficiency Plan 2025–2030 and will support the Council in meeting its statutory duties, reducing cost pressure on the DSG High Needs Block and managing financial risk.
- 7.2 Legal
- 7.2.1 Under section 14 of the Education Act 1996 a local authority must ensure that enough (in number, character and equipment to provide for all pupils the opportunity of appropriate education) primary and secondary schools are available for its area.
- 7.2.2 Schedule 11 of the Education Act 2011 amends the Education and Inspections Act 2006 such that if a local authority thinks that a new school needs to be established in its area it must seek proposals for the establishment of an academy. The proposals in the capital programme intend to extend existing schools rather than seek to establish any new schools. Each project in the programme that involves new buildings on a new site is considered on an individual basis at the appropriate time.
- 7.2.3 The procurement of individual projects will be carried out in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and the Procurement Act 2023. Some projects may be individually advertised, some may be procured through frameworks which the Council may lawfully use, and some may be carried out under contracts already entered into by the Council.
- 7.2.4 The expansion of schools must be carried out in accordance with DfE published statutory guidance *Making significant changes* ('prescribed

*alterations') to maintained schools* (October 2024). Where required, statutory notices of the proposals are published, interested parties are consulted and representations made are duly considered.

### 7.3 Equalities and Diversity

7.3.1 An Equalities Analysis screening template has been completed and there are no negative or adverse impact identified (see Appendix 4). Capital investment is based on need for additional school places and to maintain school infrastructure. The greatest need is for SEND places, with only limited growth in mainstream places presently projected. Proposed capital investment aligns with this need.

7.3.2 The following measures will be introduced to maximise the positive equalities impacts and to minimise any potential negative impacts:

- Access to school sites during construction work could be impaired. To mitigate against this, contractors will ensure that sites remain accessible and utilise methods of construction that minimise disruption.
- The programme seeks to positively develop projects with facilities for children with SEND and children who are at risk of exclusion.

### 7.4 Sustainability (including climate change, health, crime and disorder)

7.4.1 A sustainability matrix has been compiled and is detailed as Appendix 5.

7.4.2 Continuing to invest and deliver in high quality school places contributes positively to giving every child the best start in life and enabling all children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives. This can also reduce vulnerability to crime and anti-social behaviour by building resilience, improving educational outcomes and promoting positive pathways.

7.4.3 Where schemes in the Capital Programme relate to the improvement of a Council asset, due regard will be given to sustainability as part of the Council's response to the declared Climate Emergency. The Council sets itself a target of meeting at least the "Very Good" standard as assessed by the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM).

7.4.4 As part of the statutory approval process, capital schemes will comply with Building Regulations Part L conservation of fuel and power (2021 edition incorporating 2023 amendments) and the Council's Local Plan Policy 2020 – 2035 (adopted 2024), including aspiring to be a zero carbon borough, decentralised energy, sustainable design and construction, air pollution, water quality and water resources, contaminated land, managing flood risk, overheating and waste management.

7.4.5 The London Plan was adopted in March 2021 and the net zero carbon requirement applies. Contributions for remaining emissions above the baseline of 35% reduction will need to be made to the Carbon Offset Fund (COF) at £95 a tonne over 30 years. This will need to be factored

into each scheme's budget and will vary by site, subject to how well a building is performing. Schemes will need to target onsite reductions as close to net zero as possible, with a minimum of 35% reduction, and any remainder offset.

- 7.4.6 A programme wide sustainability matrix has been completed (see Appendix 5), and this sets out sustainability issues to be addressed. These vary between projects and include site contamination, better insulation, sustainable urban drainage systems and recycling.
- 7.4.7 To comply with the Council's Sustainable Procurement Policy, the economic, environmental and social impact of each project will be separately considered. Where possible, opportunities to increase apprenticeships and use a local supply chain will be taken. Consideration will also be given to working with local providers who can provide pre-employment training schemes. 10% of the weighting of evaluation criteria will be attributed to sustainability in accordance with the policy.

## 7.5 Council Infrastructure

- 7.5.1 The Council has identified a priority to invest in the Council's infrastructure to facilitate improved utilisation of sites and buildings. The Schools Capital Programme fulfils this objective in terms of rationalising, expanding and maintaining existing schools and their sites.
- 7.5.2 Resources required within the Capital Delivery Division have been identified as part of annual resource planning and will be financially resourced from available capital funding within this programme, attributed to approved schemes.

Background Information (as defined by Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985)

None